

Tension eats into business as 80% of restaurants stay shut

This year began on a bad note for small businesses, banks and especially the hospitality industry, which suffered a loss of INR 400-500 crore due to both the Kamala Mills fire and the Dalit protests. On average Mumbai's food and liquor industry has a daily turnover of INR 100 crore. It sees a spike in business at the end of the year when the holiday season draws in large crowds. However, this New Year's Eve, people steered clear of city bars and restaurants preferring beaches and hill stations in the aftermath of the Kamala Mills fire. And as protests rocked the city on Tuesday and Wednesday, over 7,000 of the city's 8,000 restaurants and bars saw almost no footfalls because over 80% of them remained closed or did not get customers.

Almost all bars and restaurants kept their shutters down following the rioting on Wednesday. In the eastern and central suburbs, violent mobs vandalised some of the eating joints too.